CONDITIONS AND POLITICS IN OCCUPIED WESTERN EUROPE 1940-1945

PART THREE. 1942 (Allied Administration, Belgium, Co-ordination Files, Denmark, Dominions Intelligence, France, General Files, Italy, Miscellaneous Files, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Vatican)

Selected from PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE CLASS FO 371
(General Correspondence. Political)

The reel numbering of the whole Series is continuous. Part One (1940) appears on Reels 1-12, Part Two (1941) on Reels 13-39 and Part Three (1942) on Reels 40-63.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This is the third part of a major research collection for modern European history which has been selected from the huge and immensely important Public Record Office class FO 371. Part 1 covered 1940, Part 2 deals with 1941, and Part 3 contains the files for 1942.

Again containing more than 2,800 individual folders, Part Three reflects the events of 1942. By the beginning of the year it was clear that the Moscow front had halted the advance of the Germans. In the growing resistance movements in France there was much debate about the kinds of action that were appropriate at that time. On the whole, the British did not call for violent, open resistance and preferred to see their agents assisting the training of "secret armies" which should lie low until the second front could be opened. There was disappointment in France after the limitations of the Dieppe Raid became clear. But by the end of the year the military tide had turned. In the desert El Alamein had been fought and won; the Allies had siezed Algiers and a large German Army was encircled at Stalingrad. The Germans sent troops into the 'unoccupied zone' of France.

This collection is a unique documentary source for almost every aspect of the effect of the war in Europe and provides key insights into the diplomatic and propagandist strategy of the Foreign Office.

In all cases complete files have been filmed and there are a few instances when files contain material outside the main theme of this collection.

The general condition of the files is good but there are occasions when very poor duplicated copies or manuscript notes have been difficult to reproduce. Every care has been taken and the best possible image obtained.